GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1170
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2003
EXPLOITATION OF MINERALS
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have explored minerals in the territorial waters, continental shelf and other maritime zones; and

(b) if so, the royalty given for such mining to the respective States from whose shore they are being exploited ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) : Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted systematic surveys for seabed mapping and exploration of minerals in the territorial waters, continental shelf and within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of IndiaDuring the surveys heavy mineral sands comprising Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Sillimanite, Monazite and Garnet have been located off the coasts of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Kerala high grade lime mud deposit located off the coasts of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, phosphatised sediments located off the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat and micro-manganese nodules and ferromanganese encrustations in Andaman and Lakshadweep seas.

(b) : Under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002, royalty is payable by the lessee to the Central Government for the mineral consumed or removed by him as the Central Government is the owner of minerals in offshore areas. However, the Central Government have not notified any area for exploration and production in the offshore area so far.